IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

~~f~~ If multiple queues at a single input port contain data, then there is input contention at that input port. Similarly, output contention occurs when multiple input ports try to access a single output port. The switch ~~102~~ 120 which is used in this architecture is arranged to receive the input data Input_1, Input_2, Input_3 stored temporarily in the queues, under the constraint that at most one queue per input port is served in a unit of time (slot). In the example the switch ~~102~~ 120 can receive data from at most three queues simultaneously, but it can never receive data from two queues coupled to the same input port simultaneously. The switch ~~102~~ 120 then delivers the data as output data Output_1, Output_2, Output_3, to be processed further by the network.